

Catherine A. Lavoie

Please HB 36: APRN independent practice.

Connecticut should join the 20 other states who have already taken this visionary step.

I have been a psychiatric nurse for over 30 years. My career has centered on caring for the most seriously mentally ill citizens of Connecticut. I have worked at the Connecticut Mental Health Center (New Haven), Fairfield Hills Hospital (Newtown), several correctional facilities, and lastly at the University of Connecticut Health Center, Out-patient Psychiatry, in Farmington.

Currently I have a private practice in Litchfield where I see people on Medicare, Medicaid, Husky, and sometimes people who have no insurance. As a member of Greenwoods Counseling Referrals, I am committed to helping people who can not afford mental health care.

Many people see a therapist such as a social worker or psychologist with excellent results. However if they also need to be on medication, they must find an APRN or psychiatrist to prescribe. As a result these patients must see two separate providers for their care. Because of my training as an APRN, I am able to provide psychotherapy as well as medications in one session. You can see that this is cost-effective but what may not be quite so obvious is how much better it is for the patient.

The reason this law HB 36, is so important is that it frees APRN's to work within our scope of practice without the legal burden of a physician collaborator. All health care providers consult with colleagues and that will not change with HB36. What will change is access to quality care with an APRN will be improved and not at risk when the physician withdraws for any reason.

Many studies have shown that APRN's provide safe, effective care with high rates of patient satisfaction. Granting us independent practice makes sense. We are here, we are ready to serve. I urge you to help clear the way. Support HB36.

Thank you very much,

Catherine A. Lavoie, APRN

Catherine A. Lavoie, MSN, APRN
15 Meadow Street - P.O. Box 1164
Litchfield, CT. 06759
Phone: 860-488-1919
Fax: 877-567-6451
www.creativestressmanagement.org
Member of Greenwoods Counseling Referrals